

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a target list, comprising:

creating a contact database having a plurality of contacts, wherein each contact has a

unique identifier;

querying a history database for each contact using the unique identifier;

determining a set of history attributes for each contact based on the query; and

generating the target list from the contact database based on at least one history attribute.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the history database based on the target list.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes:

providing a plurality of input lists, each input list having a plurality of input contacts;

associating a unique identifier to each input contact that does not have a unique identifier;

determining a set of unique input contacts in the input lists; and

adding each unique input contact to the contact database.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the creating step further includes determining a number of input lists on which each unique input contact appears.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein each input list further includes a priority and wherein the
2 creating step further includes determining an input list having a highest priority on which each
3 contact appeared.

1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the associating step includes:
2 providing a stored contact database having a plurality of stored contacts, wherein each
3 stored contact has a unique identifier;
4 determining whether each input contact matches any stored contact;
5 using a unique identifier for a stored contact for each input contact that matches the stored
6 contact; and
7 generating a unique identifier for each input contact that does not match any stored
8 contact.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the associating step further includes adding each input
2 contact that does not match any stored contact to the stored contact database.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes:
2 providing a suppress list, having a plurality of suppress contacts; and
3 ensuring that each suppress contact does not appear on a contact list.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes:

2 identifying a previous target list generated by a plurality of previous input lists;
3 determining whether each contact appeared on the previous target list; and
4 determining, for each contact that appeared on the previous target list, a number of
5 previous input lists on which the contact appeared.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step includes:

2 identifying a previous target list;
3 creating a contact management report based on the contact database and the previous
4 target list;
5 selecting at least one group of contacts having a common history attribute based on the
6 contact management report; and
7 adding each contact in the at least one group of contacts to the target list.

1 11. A system for generating a target list from a plurality of input lists, each input list having a
2 plurality of input contacts, comprising:

3 an identification system for associating a unique identifier to each input contact;

4 a merge system for processing the plurality of input lists to generate a contact database
5 having a plurality of contacts;

6 a history system for determining a set of history attributes for each contact by querying a
7 history database for each contact using the unique identifier; and

8 a target system for generating the target list based on the contact database and at least one
9 history attribute.

10 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising an update system for updating the contact history
11 database based on the target list.

12 13. The system of claim 11, further comprising a report system for generating a contact
13 management report based on the contact database and a previous target list, wherein the target list
14 is further based on the contact management report.

1 14. A method of creating a contact management report, comprising:

2 creating a contact database having a plurality of contacts by merging a plurality of input
3 lists, wherein each contact includes a unique identifier and a value indicating a number of input
4 lists on which the contact appeared;

5 querying a history database for each contact in the contact database using the unique
6 identifier;

7 specifying a previous target list based on a plurality of previous input lists;

8 determining a set of history attributes for each contact in the contact database based on
9 the previous target list and the query; and

10 creating the contact management report based on the contact database, the previous target
11 list and the set of history attributes.

12 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the determining step includes determining a number of
13 previous input lists on which each contact appeared.

1 16. A contact management report based on a contact database and a previous target list, wherein
2 the contact database includes a plurality of contacts merged from a plurality of input lists, and
3 wherein the previous target list includes a plurality of target contacts merged from a plurality of
4 previous input lists, comprising:

5 input list data that describes at least one attribute of each input list;

6 previous target list data that describes at least one attribute of the previous target list;

7 group data that describes one of a group of contacts and a group of target contacts having
8 a common history attribute; and

9 comparison data that describes at least one history attribute of a group of contacts that
10 match a group of target contacts and appear on both an input list and the previous target list.

11 17. The contact management report of claim 16, wherein the input list data includes a number of
12 contacts obtained from an input list.

13 18. The contact management report of claim 16, wherein the previous target list data includes a
14 number of target contacts that appear on an input list.

15 19. The contact management report of claim 16, wherein the group data includes a number of
16 contacts that appear on a single input list.

17 20. The contact management report of claim 16, wherein the group data includes a number of the
18 group of contacts that appear on multiple input lists.

1 21. The contact management report of claim 16, wherein the comparison data includes a number
2 of the group of contacts that appear on a single input list and a plurality of previous input lists.

1 22. The contact management report of claim 16, wherein the comparison data includes a number
2 of contacts that appear on a plurality of input lists and a plurality of previous input lists.

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